



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

October 15, 2004

**H.R. 5104**  
**Prescott Marine Mammal Stranding Program Amendments of 2004**  
*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 22, 2004*

**SUMMARY**

H.R. 5104 would authorize appropriations for programs to protect and conserve marine mammals. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$1 million in 2005 and \$47 million over the 2005-2009 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. We also estimate that H.R. 5104 would increase both direct spending and revenues by less than \$500,000 a year.

H.R. 5104 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Alaska Native organizations, universities, and other public entities that participate in grant programs or cooperative agreements would incur costs voluntarily.

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 5104 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Authorization Level	16	16	16	16	16
Estimated Outlays	1	5	11	14	16

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

H.R. 5104 would authorize the appropriation of \$16 million a year over the 2005-2009 period for programs to protect and conserve marine mammals. The amount authorized for each year includes \$6 million to support efforts by Alaska Native organizations to manage marine mammals for subsistence, \$5 million for grants to organizations that rescue marine mammals, \$3 million for research on pinnipeds and marine mammals, \$1.5 million for efforts to design fishing equipment that minimizes adverse impacts on marine mammals, and \$125,000 for grants to respond to stranded animals. Based on historical spending patterns for similar programs, CBO estimates that fully funding those activities would cost \$1 million in 2005 and \$47 million over the 2005-2009 period.

In addition, H.R. 5104 could increase revenues and subsequent direct spending of those revenues. The bill would increase fines for certain violations of federal law related to the protection of marine mammals. Under current law, the Secretary of the Interior can spend such fines, without further appropriation, for programs to protect and conserve those mammals. Based on information from the Department of the Interior, CBO expects that a relatively small number of cases would be affected and that any increases in revenues and direct spending from this provision would be negligible.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 5104 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Alaska Native organizations, universities, and other public entities that participate in grant programs or cooperative agreements would incur costs voluntarily.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

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